Jelly

The Wrong Lunch Box

LITTLE READERS



BEFORE YOU READ

Look and Wonder

1. Look at the title and the picture.
2. What could go wrong at lunchtime?
3. How do you find your own things?
4. Share your ideas with a partner.



Dad packed Ben's lunch that morning.
He put a cheese sandwich inside.
Ben watched him close the red box.
Lunch was his favorite school break.



Dad picked up a round paper note.
He drew a big smile on it.
Then he tucked it by the sandwich.
"Have a good day!" he told Ben.



Ben carried his lunch box to school.
He put it on the classroom shelf.
His friend Max waved from the door.
Ben hurried over to see his game.



Mina came in a little later.
She carried a red lunch box, too.
She set it beside Ben's lunch box.
Then she joined her friends to read.



Two red boxes stood on the shelf.
Both had black zippers and red handles.
Neither box had a name on it.
From far away, they looked the same.



The children worked all morning long.
Ben drew a bridge with Max.
Mina read a book about the moon.
At last, the lunch bell rang.



Mina reached the shelf before Ben.
She took one of the red boxes.
She did not look inside it.
She carried it to a sunny table.



Ben and Max walked to the shelf.
Only one red box was left.
"That must be mine," Ben said.
He picked it up by the handle.



Ben sat down at the lunch table.

He set the box on the table.

Then he slowly pulled the zipper open.

He was ready for his cheese sandwich.



But purple grapes filled a small cup.
A little spoon lay beside the cup.
There was no sandwich in the box.
Ben stared at the strange lunch.



"Dad packed a sandwich," Ben told Max.
"He did not pack these grapes."
Max leaned closer to see the food.
"Maybe it is under the cup."



Ben carefully lifted the cup of grapes.
He looked in each little corner.
There was nothing under the cup.
His cheese sandwich was still missing.



Something yellow peeked beside the spoon.

Ben gently pulled the paper out.

It was a small yellow star.

Someone had folded one point down.



"Did your dad make that?" Max asked.

Ben turned the star in his hand.

"No. His note was round," he said.

"It had a big smile on it."



Ben remembered the kitchen that morning.
Dad had put the note inside.
The smile was right by his sandwich.
This yellow star was very different.



Ben looked at the red handle.
He checked the pockets and the bottom.
He could not find a name.
How could he find the right owner?



"Let's ask before we eat," Max said.

Ben put the grapes back carefully.

He set the star beside the box.

The lunch might belong to someone nearby.



Ben stood up beside his chair.
He held the yellow star up high.
"Did someone lose a paper star?"
A few children turned to look.



Across the room, Mina heard his voice.
She stopped opening her red lunch box.
She looked straight at the yellow star.
Her eyes grew wide with surprise.



Mina carried her box to Ben's table.
"Where did you find that?" she asked.
"It was beside these grapes," Ben said.
Mina looked from one box to the other.



Stop and Think

WHAT HAVE YOU READ SO FAR?

1. What did Ben expect to find?
2. What did he find instead?
3. How was the star unlike Dad's note?
4. Why did Ben ask before eating?



Make a Prediction

USE THE CLUES

1. What made the boxes hard to tell apart?
2. Why did Mina come to Ben's table?
3. What might be inside Mina's box?
4. What should they check next?



"My sister made that star for me."
Mina pointed to its folded yellow tip.
"She always folds one point like that."
Ben gently handed the star to her.



"Then these must be your grapes."
Ben pushed the open box toward Mina.
"But where is my cheese sandwich?"
Mina looked down at her own box.



"I took this from the shelf first."

Mina set her box beside Ben's.

The two red handles looked alike.

"Could I have taken yours?" she asked.



Mina pulled the black zipper open.

Ben and Max leaned over the table.

A cheese sandwich lay inside the box.

A round note rested right beside it.



Ben lifted the round paper note.
A big smile looked up at him.
"That's the note my dad made!"
At last, he knew where lunch was.



Mina remembered the classroom shelf.

"I thought this box was mine."

"I took the other one," Ben said.

Both children had made the same mistake.



"I'm sorry," Mina said to Ben.

"I should have checked the box."

"I'm sorry, too," Ben said.

"We can put everything back now."



Ben passed Mina the box of grapes.

He put her spoon beside the cup.

Mina placed her star safely inside.

Everything in her lunch was together again.



Mina slid the other box to Ben.
His sandwich was still tucked inside.
He placed the round note beside it.
Now he had his own lunch back.



Max looked at both closed red boxes.

"They still look the same," he said.

Ben and Mina studied the two handles.

Tomorrow, they might make the mistake again.



"We need something we can see."

Ben opened the small craft pouch nearby.

He found a piece of blue ribbon.

"This could help me find my box."



Ben wrapped the ribbon around the handle.
He made a knot and pulled it tight.
The blue ends hung over the red box.
Now his box looked a little different.



Mina found a blank white name tag.
She wrote her name with a pencil.
Then she tied it to her handle.
Her yellow star stayed safe inside.



Max pointed to the blue ribbon.

"Which lunch box is this?" he asked.

"Mine!" Ben answered with a grin.

Mina pointed proudly to her name tag.



At last, the children began to eat.

Ben took a bite of his sandwich.

Mina ate a sweet purple grape.

They were glad they had checked first.



After lunch, Ben wiped his box clean.
He saved Dad's note in his pocket.
Mina carefully packed her spoon away.
Then they closed their own red boxes.



They carried the boxes to the shelf.

Ben put his beside Mina's again.

This time, he could see the ribbon.

Mina could see her name tag, too.



The next morning, Ben packed his bag.
He checked the blue ribbon once more.
Dad tucked in another smiling note.
Ben told him about the mixed-up lunches.



At school, the lunch bell rang again.
Ben stopped and looked at the shelf.
He found the blue ribbon right away.
Mina checked the name on her tag.



They opened their boxes at the table.
Each child had the right lunch today.
Ben smiled at Max and Mina.
A little check had made a big difference.



Talk About the Story

LOOK BACK AT THE WHOLE STORY

1. How did the lunch boxes get mixed up?
2. Which clues helped the children?
3. How did they get their lunches back?
4. Which picture shows the best clue?



Think and Discuss

CONNECT THE STORY TO YOUR LIFE

1. Why did both children say sorry?
2. How did Max help solve the problem?
3. Why was the next day different?
4. What would you put on your own box?



Put the Pictures in Order

Look at the four pictures.

Write 1, 2, 3, and 4 in the boxes.



A ☐



B ☐



C ☐



D ☐

Point to the pictures and tell the story.

Tell the Story

USE THE FOUR PICTURES ON THE PREVIOUS PAGE

First ...

Next ...

Then ...

Finally ...



My Lunch Box

Design a mark for your own lunch box.

Draw it in the space below.

My mark is _____

It will help me because

_____



The End

Thank you for reading.

Look closely. Ask kindly.

Check before you choose.

